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**The Department of
Fisheries and Oceans
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in Quebec**





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Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

**The Department of
Fisheries and Oceans
at your service
in Quebec**



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Introduction

Fishing is an activity of historical importance in the province of Quebec, as well as in all the maritime provinces of Canada. It is the reason for the settlement of Quebec's shores and was, for a number of years, the pioneers' principal source of nourishment and often their only source of income.

Today the fishery represents an important part of the economy in the Gaspé, the Magdalen Islands and the coastal areas of the North Shore. It is on a par with the manufacturing industry in the urban areas and with agriculture in the rural areas. It is an industry in full flight. Its future depends on the collective effort of all interested parties, be they fishermen, workers in the fish-processing plants, employees of the service industries, or public servants.

The Government of Canada, which by virtue of the Constitution is responsible for the management of the marine fishery, will therefore concentrate on protecting the resource and developing the industry. It wants to guarantee the fishermen a reasonable income, and recognizes that they have a right to a proper share of the resource and to the same socio-economic advantages as other Canadians.

By resuming management of the Quebec marine fishery, and through the revitalization program, implementation of which was begun last year by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Government of Canada is working to ensure the economic viability of the fishing industry and thereby strengthen the basic economic structure in the regions where the marine fishery operates.

All Department of Fisheries and Oceans activities are geared towards efficiency, profitability, the ability

to pull greater wealth from a limited resource and an improvement in the economic situation of fishermen and other members of the marine fishery.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has therefore declared the Quebec office a regional office, and has also created district and area offices, so that specialists in all areas of the fisheries will be available to you for advice and assistance whenever you need it.

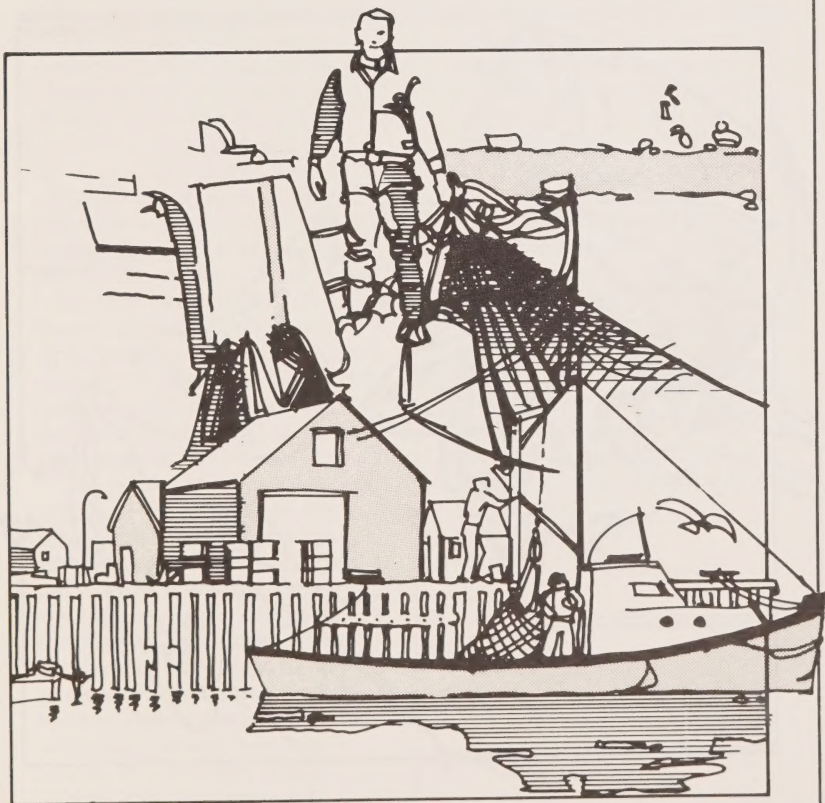
This publication will acquaint you with the general organization of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Quebec, as well as with the principal services available to you.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is at your service in Quebec.

1. DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS

Pursuant to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Act, the duties, powers and functions of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans extend to and include all matters relating to

- i) coastal and inland fisheries
- ii) fishing and recreational harbours
- iii) hydrography and marine sciences
- iv) the coordination of the policies and programs of the Government of Canada respecting oceans.



Objectives

The objectives of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are to undertake, to promote and to co-ordinate the policies and programs focusing on the conservation and management of the fishery resource and its habitat, a better utilization of the

resource for the benefit of those Canadian communities which depend on it, the carrying out of research and surveys which support Canada's economic and scientific interests in its oceans, and the use of navigable waters and other marine resources in a manner which is compatible with environmental concerns.

2. THE QUEBEC REGION



While the headquarters of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is located in Ottawa, the Department is very decentralized, having offices in several regions of the country. This allows the various maritime regions in Canada to manage their own fish stocks and research programs according to their particular needs.

In the province of Quebec the departmental structure is made up of the following elements:

- Operations Branch
- Small Craft Harbours Branch
- Fisheries Research Branch
- Ocean Science and Surveys.

The Quebec Region implements policies concerning the distribution of fish stocks in its territory according to conservation objectives, economic stability, industrial viability and the optimization of benefits for fishermen and producers whose income depends in whole or in part on the fishery.

To meet these objectives, the Quebec Region brings together administrators and fisheries specialists who define the terms and conditions of the commercial fishery in Quebec and apply departmental regulations.

The regional headquarters has offices at the Champlain Harbour Station in Quebec City, and represents the interests of the fishermen and the industry out of four district offices in Gaspé, Sept-Îles, Cap-aux-Meules and Longueuil, as well as eight area offices in Grande-Rivière, Baie Comeau, Rivière-au-Renard, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Bonaventure, Blanc-Sablon, Grande-Entrée and

Quebec City. These offices provide assistance to the fisherman in any area under the jurisdiction of the regional headquarters, as well as inspection services and laboratory expertise. These various offices can supply information on such matters as fishing licences, insurance, financial assistance for boat construction, harbours and development projects. The Longueuil office is more specialized in that it carries out water and fish quality tests, and very specialized chemical, bacterial and organoleptic studies.

The following are the names of departmental research stations in the province of Quebec: Champlain Marine Sciences Centre in Quebec City, the Arctic Biological Station at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, and the Fishery Ecology Research Centre in Rimouski.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Historically the fishery has constituted the economic foundation of a number of small Quebec communities, particularly those along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, along the North Shore and on the Magdalen Islands.

Although the Government of Canada has administered the fishery since 1867, it has since 1922 played a more subdued role in the province of Quebec. The crisis the industry has undergone during the past decade was the reason behind the federal government's decision to restructure the fishing industry.

Because, too, of its desire to ensure a better control over the management of the resource and the revitalization of the fishing industry, the Government of Canada recently reassumed responsibility for the management of the marine fishery in Quebec; this allows Quebec headquarters to better manage its fish stocks and encourages their recovery, while at the same time guaranteeing an adequate income for the fisherman and the industry.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans discharges its responsibilities in the area of resource management through various programs such as the establishing of quotas, the issuing of fishing licences, the surveillance of fishing activities and fisheries research.

A. Commercial fishing licences

Since July 11, 1983, the Government of Canada, through the intervention of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, has assumed full administrative responsibility for Quebec's marine fishery, with the exception of anadromous species such as salmon, and catadromous species such as eel.

As a result, all commercial fishermen must, beginning April 1, 1984, possess a federal fishing licence. Licences for commercial fishing in Quebec's tidal waters are now being issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

These licences cover the fishing or harvesting of species such as the following:

- groundfish such as cod, redfish and flatfish
- pelagic fish such as herring, mackerel, capelin and tuna
- crustaceans such as lobster, crab and shrimp

- shellfish such as softshell clams, scallops and whelks
- marine mammals such as seals
- marine plants such as Irish Moss.

Further information, as well as assistance in filling out forms, can be obtained from the Regional Office or one of the district or area offices of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

B. Protection

Fishery management encompasses a number of activities which include conservation and protection of the resource. The Marine Fishery Conservation and Protection Program, Quebec Region, has been implemented in order to ensure compliance with both the Annual Fishing Plans and the Fishery Regulations according to the Canada Fisheries Act; these deal, for example, with the distance that must be kept at sea between

boats using mobile gear and those using fixed gear, the amount of tackle, net size, fishing zones, total allowable catch, and so on.

Fisheries and Oceans conservation and protection programs cover the full range of marine fishery activities in Quebec, irrespective of boat size. They also cover seal hunt activities in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Conservation and Protection Service, whose employees are scattered throughout the areas where the marine fishery is carried out, is on 24-hour call using the most modern and up-to-date equipment.

Conservation and protection officers monitor not only the activities of Quebec fishing boats, but those of boats from other provinces and foreign vessels fishing in the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence. By boarding the vessels at sea the officers can inspect the boat, the licences and the gear, and can determine if those on board are complying with the rules and regulations in force.

In the event of a violation, the officers are empowered to have the ship stopped, to escort it to the nearest port, and to bring legal action against the offenders.

The Protection Service, Quebec Region, has one boat, the *Pierre Fortin*, which it has used to carry out surveillance activities in Quebec waters since April 1980. This year the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will equip the region

with 17 additional boats whose size will vary between 22 and 80 feet. These boats will be used not only for surveillance and inspection purposes but will also, as required, carry out search and rescue operations in collaboration with the Canadian Coast Guard and the departments of Transport and National Defence.

C. Inspection and quality improvement

The Inspection and Technology Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans administers two programs in quality improvement for fishermen and fish processors. They are the National Fish Inspection Program and the Fish Quality Improvement Program.

The first objective of the inspection program, which has been operating for a number of years, is to ensure that fish and seafood available on Canadian markets do not present any health risk, that their quality is acceptable and that they conform to standards of labelling, composition, identification and grading required by Canadian law and by the laws of importing countries.

Furthermore, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans endeavours to encourage efficient use of our fishery resources through various initiatives to reduce waste, to improve quality and to increase profits.

This initiative was emphasized and encouraged by the Quality Improvement Program, established in 1980 to contribute to the improvement and stabilization of socio-economic advantages for those participating in the fishery and to the maintenance of a viable industry. The strategy to carry this out consists of instituting new regulations aimed principally at improving the quality of fish products in Canada in order that they may become increasingly competitive on the world markets.

To this end the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has identified elements which affect all aspects of fish handling from the moment of capture to availability on the market, and which will allow all sectors of the industry to meet their objectives.

Inspection of fish products destined for out-of-province or out-of-country export is, according to the Constitution, the exclusive responsibility and right of the Government of Canada. This also applies to all fish products imported by Canada.

a) Vessel registration

All boats to be used in the fishing of species destined for export must first be registered, to ensure that the boats satisfy all requirements as to construction, material and method of operation.

These boats must be equipped with adequate facilities for handling the catch for the pre-

servation of fish quality on board. Fish is among the most perishable of foodstuffs and spoilage begins at the moment of harvest. Spoilage can be kept to a minimum if the boats are equipped to treat the fish as quickly and carefully as possible, to protect it from the elements and contamination, and to store and refrigerate it in compartments, tanks or other suitable containers.

Registration is a prerequisite for all licences for the fishing of species destined for export. The Inspection Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regularly inspects ships to ensure that they conform to statutory requirements.

b) Inspection service

Inspectors visit fishing boats on an ongoing basis to ensure their basic compliance with standards respecting construction and equipment, protection of fish from the sun and the elements, temperature control, suitable handling facilities and proper cleaning of facilities after the fish has been unloaded.

At dockside the fish is tested for loss of freshness while on board and for any signs of improper handling during unloading. Inspectors ensure that clean water is being used and that the unloading equipment is not causing damage to any edible part of the fish.

Transportation can have a great effect on fish quality, causing physical damage, spoil-

age and contamination of the product. The fish must be refrigerated and handled in a way that will ensure the quality is maintained.

There are more than 119 fish-processing plants in Quebec, all of which require registration certificates from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Each plant is inspected at the time of registration and more than 60 requirements must be met. A detailed inspection of each plant is made on an annual basis while regular surveillance ensures compliance with the law. Inspection guarantees proper sanitary practices with respect to personal hygiene and the cleaning and proper use of equipment.

Regulations demand that all storage facilities for processed fish be approved. Products must be protected from dust, rodents and pollutants. Freezer compartments must be maintained at a temperature of -26 degrees centigrade or lower, and instruments for measuring temperature must be placed in the proper locations. All fish products must be protected from contaminants and from the elements during loading and unloading.

If the products are found to be unsuitable while in storage, while being processed or distributed, they are immediately held back or seized. At the retail level products are recalled in collaboration with the Health Protection Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare.

Among other tests to ensure the overall quality of the prod-

uct, inspections are carried out to detect the presence of harmful bacteria, pollutants such as lead or other heavy metals, pesticides or paralytic shellfish poisoning. Products are inspected regularly by organoleptic means, i.e., through smell, taste and texture tests, for the presence of flaws in bones and shells, and for bruises, blood clots or foreign matter.

Inspectors in the field, as well as laboratory personnel, regularly inspect the products for which classification standards have been established (salted fish and pickled fish), for compliance with health standards. A certain number of fish products, such as fish sticks and fish portions, lobster paste and shrimp cocktail, must meet the standards required by law as to composition. These products are inspected regularly to ensure that they do not contain prohibited additives or excessive amounts of permitted additives. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will also ensure that labelling conforms to inspection regulations and meets the ticketing standards of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

c) Quality improvement

In connection with the Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has introduced a vast number of programs which, spaced out over a five-year period, will provide fishermen and processors alike

with the techniques and means to improve the quality of their products.

In addition to the programs to improve the fleet, harvesting techniques and harbour facilities, the revitalization program will take steps to help fishermen and processors to produce a higher quality product by supplying them with the following:

i) Ice-making and ice-storage facilities

The availability of ice is important for ensuring that fish are kept as fresh as possible. Refrigeration of fish is therefore mandatory on all vessels under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Quality Improvement Program. The Government of Canada has therefore decided to make the task easier by providing facilities which are part of the Quebec fisherman's daily needs.

Under the revitalization program, \$7.5 million has been set aside for the development of facilities to make and store ice throughout Quebec coastal regions. Depending on the availability of funds, transportation of fish to the plant by conveyor belt can be arranged in certain areas where a processing plant is sufficiently close to the off-loading site. It is anticipated that facilities will be built in the following locations:

<i>North Shore:</i>	\$ 1,850,000
Sept-Îles	
Mingan	
Natashquan	

Baie-des-Moutons
Saint-Augustin
Rivière Saint-Paul
Middle Bay
La Tabatière
Blanc-Sablon
Hâvre-Saint-Pierre

Gaspé/

Lower St. Lawrence \$ 4,250,000

Matane
Les Méchins
Saint-Joachim-de-Tourelle
Cloridorme
L'Anse-à-Valleau
Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé
L'Anse-au-Griffon
La Malbaie
L'Anse-à-Beaufils
Gascons
Port-Daniel
Carleton
Rimouski

Magdalen Islands \$ 1,400,000

Hâvre Aubert
Grande-Entrée
Pointe-au-Loup
Grosse Île
Old Harry
Pointe Basse
Hâvre-aux-Maisons
L'Île d'Entrée

ii) Dockside installations

The revitalization program also provides funds for a program to help fishermen maintain and improve fish quality through improvements in handling techniques both on board the vessel and during unloading. The Government of Canada has therefore decided to offer financial assistance to equip docks with concrete flagstones, electricity and drainage pipes. A total of \$7.5 million has been allocated for upgrading dockside

installations in Quebec. Equipment and facilities in the following locations have been earmarked for improvement:

North Shore \$ 1,650,000

Port Cartier
Sept-Îles
Rivière-au-Tonnerre
Mingan
Natashquan
Kégaska
Harrington Harbour
Baie-des-Moutons
Saint-Augustin
La Tabatière
Vieux-Fort
Rivière Saint-Paul
Middle Bay
Bradore Bay
Lourdes-du-Blanc-Sablon
Blanc-Sablon

Gaspé/

Lower St. Lawrence \$ 4,250,000

Rimouski
Matane
Les Méchins
Cap-Chat
Saint-Joachim-de-Tourelle
Cloridorme
L'Anse-à-Valleau
Rivière-au-Renard
Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé
L'Anse-au-Griffon
Malbaie
L'Anse-à-Beaufils
Grande-Rivière
Newport Point
Gascons
Carleton
Port-Daniel

Magdalen Islands \$ 1,600,000

Cap-aux-Meules
Hâvre Aubert
Grande-Entrée
Pointe-au-Loup

Old Harry
L'Île d'Entrée
Grosse Île
Havre-aux-Maisons
Pointe Basse

iii) Bait storage and distribution

The system for conserving bait instituted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is designed to guarantee fishermen a market for their herring and to provide commercial fishermen with good quality bait throughout the fishing season. The program also encourages the development of long-line fishing which produces a better quality product at less cost. A budget of \$5.7 million has been set aside for this program.

North Shore \$ 1,700,000

Kégaska
Harrington Harbour
La Tabatière
Vieux-Fort
Blanc-Sablon

Gaspé/

Lower St. Lawrence \$ 3,000,000

Saint-Joachim-de-Tourelle
Mont-Louis
Rivière-au-Renard
Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé
Grande-Rivière
Newport
Port-Daniel

Magdalen Islands \$ 1,000,000

Grande-Entrée
Cap-aux-Meules

iv) Renovation or construction of community salting plants
On the North Shore various

fishing communities have, with only limited means, set up community fish-salting facilities. Commonly called "salines", most of these plants, which have provided between 300 and 400 jobs, must now undergo renovations or be completely rebuilt. For the North Shore region alone, a budget of \$6 million has been set aside for the renovation or construction of community salting plants to be equipped with modern gutting equipment, and washing and salting facilities. The program will mean that more fish can be salt-cured locally and will result in an improvement in the quality of the product. New plants will be built at Kégaska, Old Fort and Blanc-Sablon; renovations will be undertaken in the plants at Natashquan, Harrington Harbour, Saint-Augustin, Rivière Saint-Paul, Middle Bay, Bradore Bay and Lourdes-du-Blanc-Sablon.

v) Processing sector

Studies carried out by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have indicated that 95 per cent of the 119 processing plants in Quebec are currently unable to meet operating standards and that, without financial assistance, only half of these will be able to improve their facilities to meet standards requirements. It is essential that these processing plants be modernized, to improve the quality of the final product, to diversify production methods, to safeguard jobs and to revitalize the industry.

There is very little diversification of products within Quebec's processing plants. These businesses have neither the competence nor the resources to develop new products or to keep up with changes in the marketplace.

The Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program, implemented by the Government of Canada, is therefore encouraging diversification within the processing sector with a view to improving the profit margin.

The Government of Canada has committed approximately \$5.8 million for programs which are aimed principally at improving processing facilities for the groundfish fishery, improving processing facilities and marketing for white flesh of mackerel and smoked fish products, an improvement in artificial bait production, the preparation and presentation of whelks for the consumer market, and the development of new products.

D. Fleet renovation and improvement

The Quebec fishing fleet is made up of some 2,485 boats, of which more than half will need to be replaced within the next five years.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a financial assistance program for fishermen who need to replace or renovate their boats. An average of \$600,000 per year in federal

assistance has been made available over the last ten years. The program will continue, but will do so within the framework of the Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program. The Government of Canada has decided to inject an additional \$ 16,925,000 into a new fleet rejuvenation program, to accelerate the replacement of old fishing vessels in the lower St. Lawrence, the Gaspé, the Magdalen Islands and the North Shore. Financial assistance will be available in the areas of improvement of harvesting techniques, technological improvements and rejuvenation of the fishing fleet. This special program guarantees fishermen a maximum subsidy of 60 per cent of construction costs of a new boat, in an effort to modernize the fleet and therefore ensure a more coherent development of the fishing industry.

a) Improvement of harvesting techniques

In the area of improvement in harvesting techniques, the Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program includes four different projects designed to help maintain the quality of fish products at time of unloading. While it is a separate program it will complement the Department of Fisheries and Oceans National Quality Improvement Program. A budget of \$2,923,750 has been allocated for the four projects.

These projects are designed to maintain the quality of fish on

board the vessel, to increase the profitability of operations by getting better prices for the fish, and finally, to reduce operating costs by instituting measures that will increase the levels of productivity in certain areas.

i) Freezing facilities on large shrimp boats

The freezing of shrimp immediately it has been caught encourages uniform quality of the product. The installation of onboard freezers would also result in profits, in that by extending the length of time each boat is at sea, the total unloaded weight per trip would be increased. This new measure would encourage steady employment in the processing plants by allowing frozen shrimp to be stored and processed outside peak times.

This project is directed at boats longer than 75 feet and less than 100 feet, with a life expectancy of more than 10 years. Assistance will equal 75 per cent of the cost of repairs; the other 25 per cent will be borne by the owner.

ii) Repair or refitting of ship holds

The aim of this project is to maintain the quality of fish while it is stored in holds, and to allow for savings in ice consumption by encouraging the insulation of holds.

Approximately 125 fishing vessels which have a reasonably long life expectancy could take

advantage of the program; a total of \$375,000 has been allocated, the average cost of alterations having been calculated at \$4,000 per unit. The project will cover 75 per cent of alteration costs; the other 25 per cent will be the responsibility of the owner.

iii) Dual wash-water system for fish-cleaning and cleaning of the ship's hold

The purpose of this project is to maintain quality standards by ensuring the availability of clean water for fish-cleaning operations. Boats currently using the same equipment to clean both the hold and the fish will be equipped with two (2) entirely separate systems. It is estimated that the cost of each installation will average \$3,000 and that approximately one hundred (100) boats will be able to take advantage of the program.

iv) Multi-purpose fishing vessels

This program will allow fishermen to modify their boats with a view to diversifying fishing methods. These changes will allow an increase in the efficiency of harvesting techniques or the adoption of techniques more economical from an energy-intensive point of view. The changes, however, are limited to internal adjustments to fixed and mobile gear such as, for example, the gillnets used by long-liners, or trawling gear used

in pair-seining or Scottish-seining. Approximately fifty boats operating in the lower St. Lawrence/Gaspé region, as well as about twenty boats from the North Shore and the Magdalen Islands, are eligible for program benefits. Cost per boat should be around \$ 20,000, 75 per cent of which will be paid by the program and 25 per cent by the fisherman/boat owner.

Eligibility

Because of the large number of boats and the nature of the proposed projects, a limited number of boats will be eligible for grants, namely about 50 per cent of the number of boats exceeding 35 feet in that region. Of the \$1,873,750 allocated, nearly \$1,545,250 will represent sums awarded to the fishermen, while a small portion will be used for the operating costs of the various projects.

Eligibility for the program will follow the guidelines of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fishing Vessel Assistance Program, with the following exceptions:

- fishermen/owners of large shrimp boats measuring 22.8 m (75 feet) to 30.5 m (100 feet) with a life expectancy of at least 10 years will be eligible for the program to subsidize the installation of freezers on board.
- fishermen and owners of fishing boats meeting the requirements of the Fishing

Vessel Assistance Program and having their home port in the province of Quebec will be eligible for all other projects mentioned.

Financial assistance in the form of a grant can total:

- 75 per cent of the allowable cost to a maximum of \$150,000 for projects covering freezing facilities on board large shrimp boats
- 75 per cent of the allowable cost to a maximum of \$10,000 for projects covering the repair or refitting of ship holds
- 75 per cent of allowable costs to a maximum of \$5,000 for projects covering the installation of separate wash-water pumping systems for fish-cleaning and cleaning of a ship's hold
- 75 per cent of allowable costs to a maximum of \$30,000 for projects covering multi-purpose fishing vessels.

b) Technological transfer

Still in the area of improvement in harvesting techniques, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans offers fishermen another program to help them increase their catches and at the same time reduce their operating costs. This program of technological transfer proposes to maximize the profitability of all fishing operations and will expose fishermen to new fishing techniques, as well as to better methods of handling fish on board; it also includes a project

to design and test new types of fishing vessels, one for inshore, and one for offshore.

These new prototypes should meet all the requirements for quality, energy efficiency, productivity, safety and cost efficiency. The costs of this research and trial program will be defrayed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the techniques developed through it will be made available to fishermen throughout the province. The Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program has allocated \$3,976,256 for this Technology Transfer Program.

c) Fleet rejuvenation

This special fleet rejuvenation program is designed to speed up the replacement of the oldest vessels in the Quebec fleet. It is known that 50 per cent of boats between 35 and 65 feet are being used beyond the age when they should be replaced and that more than 60 per cent of the others will reach that point within the next five years.

This special program guarantees to the fisherman a maximum subsidy of 60 per cent of the cost of building a new boat; this would of course include monies received from any other source of government aid, either provincial or federal. The effort to "rejuvenate" the fleet is essential if the coherent development of the industry is to be ensured. Without such a program it would be impossible for the Quebec fleet to catch up with the progress made by the other Atlantic fleets.

In order to promote economic growth of the fishery, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has allocated \$10,025,000 for these projects. They will be administered by the Department's Operations Branch in Quebec City, which is responsible for the existing program of financial assistance for boat construction. The Department will therefore contribute additional funds to modernize the vessels.

Eligibility

Eligibility will be based on whether the boat is, at the time of application for assistance, over the normal replacement age. Eligibility requirements will be identical to those in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fishing Vessel Assistance Program, with the following exceptions:

- all fishermen/boat owners who meet the requirements of the Vessel Construction Assistance Program and whose vessels are based in the province of Quebec will be eligible.
- financial assistance, in the form of a grant, can reach 60 per cent of allowable costs to a maximum of \$600,000 for each project.

E. Northern Quebec

Finally, a project to assist in the construction of boats for the purposes of food fishing and hunting has been devised to provide Native Peoples in Northern Quebec with vessels which are

better adapted to the harvesting of the fish and aquatic mammals necessary for the survival of their communities. The boats could also be used for resource development and commercial purposes. They will be multi-purpose boats and will measure approximately 15 metres.

The project's budget is \$1,100,000 and the subsidies will be used for 60 per cent of the costs of equipment and transportation of the boats from the shipyards in southern Quebec to the northern communities, up to a maximum of \$250,000 per application.

All Natives or groups of recognized Native Peoples from Northern Quebec are eligible.

F. Fishing Vessel Insurance Plan

In the past, private insurance companies have refused to insure small boats because of, among other reasons, certain high-risk factors, or they have simply charged them exorbitant premium rates. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has therefore implemented an insurance plan to provide fishermen with adequate protection at the lowest possible cost.

The plan also hopes to prevent accidents and damage to either the boats or harbour facilities by improving standards for boat construction, thereby ensuring greater safety, and by making fishermen more aware of the need for safety measures.

a) Eligibility

The Fishing Vessel Insurance Plan applies to any fishermen with proof that

- the vessel is based at a Canadian port
- the fisherman has an insurable interest
- the boat is used for fishing
- the estimated value of the boat is at least \$500.00
- he has divulged the existence of any other insurance coverage on the boat and its electronic equipment against partial or total loss.

Irrespective of the value of the policy the fisherman cannot claim compensation for any amount exceeding the estimated value.

b) Criteria

The insurance covers the boat and any electronic equipment used on it. The Department of

Fisheries and Oceans decides on the amount of an insurance premium based on the following criteria:

- the type of construction of the boat, the materials used and the safety equipment on board
- the age of the boat
- the condition of the boat, the safety equipment and related gear
- the proposed use of the boat
- the area in which the boat operates
- the competence of the crew
- any other factor which could have an effect on risks to be incurred.

When a boat is damaged, insurance adjustors from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will meet with the fisherman to inspect the boat and to calculate the amount of the loss.

4. SMALL CRAFT HARBOURS

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of more than 400 small craft harbours in Quebec. The Small Craft Harbours Branch brings together specialists in the areas of technical services, administration, finance and property who work together with professional construction services, maintenance and real estate employees from the Department of Public Works.



The program is designed to establish a regional network of efficient and useful harbours to allow Canadians to gain the maximum socio-economic benefits from the commercial fishery and to help in the installation of marinas (harbours) for recreational boating.

Harbour facilities projects are undertaken following analysis of the present and future needs of the fishery as determined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans employees in collaboration with fishermen's organiza-

tions, the fishing industry, the provincial government and other interested parties. These consultations ensure that harbour projects are compatible with the real needs of the fishery. More than 90 per cent of the Branch's total budget is spent on commercial harbours, the remainder going to marinas.

Owing to a decentralization of administrative functions, part of the services necessary for the administration and planning of a harbour in Quebec are provided by the Department of Fisheries

and Oceans area offices in Gaspé, Sept-Îles and Cap-aux-Meules.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has an annual budget of about \$3.5 million for harbour development and maintenance of existing structures. However, as part of the Government of Canada's plans to accelerate the Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program, an additional \$22.5 million has been allocated for the construction or the rebuilding of harbours in the province over the next five years. This money will be added to funds for existing construction and maintenance programs for fisheries harbours.

Major works in several fishing harbours in Quebec are a priority item within the Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program. Harbours on the North Shore, the Magdalen Islands and in the Gaspé will be built or renovated, offering

users functional wharfs, easy access and adequate protection for their boats.

This \$22.5 million program will permit the construction or renovation of harbours at the following sites:

<i>North Shore</i>	\$ 1,000,000
Bradore Bay	
Vieux-Fort	
<i>Gaspé</i>	
<i>Lower St. Lawrence</i>	\$ 18,000,000
Matane	
Cap-Chat	
Saint-Joachim-de-Tourelle	
L'Anse-à-Valleau	
Rivière-au-Renard	
Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé	
L'Anse-à-Beaufils	
Grande-Rivière	
Gascon	
Saint-Godefroi	
Bonaventure	
<i>Magdalen Islands</i>	\$ 3,525,000
Cap-aux-Meules	
Île d'Entrée	
Old Harry	

5. FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT LOANS

The special loan programs under the Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program are in addition to the regular loan programs for fishermen.

One can obtain a loan for any of the following:

- purchase or construction of a fishing vessel
- purchase or construction of fishing gear such as, for example, secondary boats,

motors, winches, electronic equipment, nets, traps, drags and any vehicles used in a fishing operation

- major repairs or adjustments to a fishing vessel provided the costs are more than \$400



- purchase or construction of shoreline structures such as piers, docks, boathouses and related materials
- basic renovation or improvements to a fishing enterprise such as, for example, the installation of a hydraulic system or the relocation of a shoreline structure.

Requests for the refinancing of existing debts or monies for basic capital costs are not eligible.

Conditions

Only a fisherman is entitled to borrow. A fisherman is defined as one who owns or who is about to acquire a fishing vessel or fishing equipment and related materials, and who earns his living through fishing.

The Fishing Vessel Assistance Regulation allows all chartered banks to offer these loans. They can also be obtained through credit unions, "caisses populaires" or other co-operatives,

trust companies, loan companies and insurance companies which, after making a request to be approved as lenders, are designated as "lenders" under the Act. The banks and other lenders inform the applicant of eligibility for a loan under that Act, and whether they are able to meet the applicant's request for credit.

Under the Act, the maximum that a fisherman can owe at any one time must not exceed \$150,000.

Keeping this limit in mind, a loan can be used for financing

- up to 75 per cent of the purchase price or estimated cost of construction of fishing gear;
- up to 90 per cent of the purchase price or estimated cost of construction of a fishing vessel.

The interest rate applied to these loans is set at one per cent above the prime rate for chartered banks. This is a floating rate, which means that it fluctuates in relation to the prime rate throughout the loan period.

The maximum period for repayment of the loan cannot exceed 15 years. Payments must be made at least once a year but more frequently if the lender requests it.

All loans must be guaranteed. Generally, the guarantee takes the form of a personal mortgage on assets or a property mortgage. The borrower must also provide the lender with a written promise to repay the loan. Other specific terms and conditions are decided on by the applicant and lender.

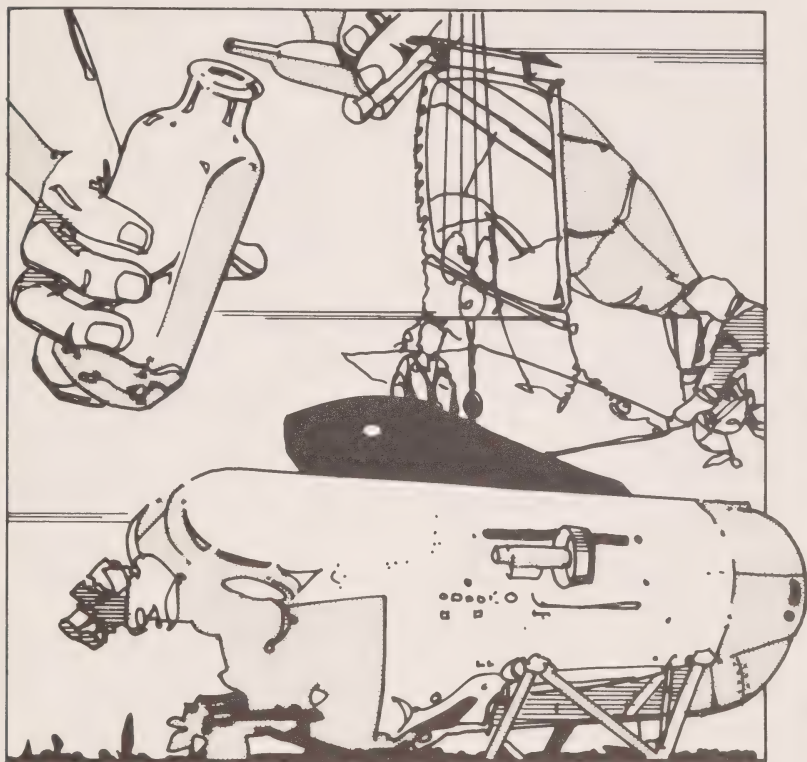
Generally speaking, it is assumed that banks will take as much care with these loans as with their other credit operations and will draw up the agreements and offer lending services in accordance with bank practices.

Refinancing of a debt or borrowing for basic capital costs are not permissible.

Fishermen wishing to obtain financial assistance should discuss their needs with the manager of the lending institution of their choice.

6. MARINE SCIENCES

In the area of marine sciences, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has programs in fishery research, ocean research, marine chart production and related publications.



A. Fisheries Research

For many years the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has carried out research on the different species of fish and seafood in the Atlantic as well as on the marine environment in general. These studies, in addition to contributing to the advancement of the marine sciences, are of great importance to Quebec fishermen in that they ensure the renewal and protection of the fishery resource.

Scientific research and the data which it provides are essential to the sound management of the commercial fishery. In fact, departmental administrators consult with the researchers and apply their scientific data regarding the abundance of commercially important species, their reproductive capacity and the state of their marine habitat when determining, for example, quotas and fishing seasons. There is no information more crucial than that provided by scientists on the size of fish

stocks to ensure species productivity for the commercial fishery and, in turn, a decent income for the fishermen.

Sound management strategy and high quality research are also responsible for the fact that, for several years, there has been an improvement among several species of East Coast fish resulting in benefits for all concerned.

In Quebec, the Fisheries Research Branch concentrates on the different commercial species, paying particular attention to the entire marine ecosystem. Among factors which are of particular interest are the effects of man's activities (such as road or harbour construction, acid rain, etc.) on the fish habitats. These data are not only useful in preventing deterioration of the marine environment, but are also used, wherever possible, to bring about improvements.

Finally, the Fisheries Research Branch studies marine mammals and Arctic fish species as well as seals and whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

B. Ocean Science and Surveys

The Ocean Science and Surveys Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans administers many programs concerned with the management and development of renewable and non-renewable marine resources, the understanding of ecological phenomena in the marine envi-

ronment, as well as the precautions necessary for the restoration and protection of this environment and its inhabitants. In addition to oceanographic research, this Branch also plans and carries out a program of hydrographic surveys and cartographic projects for navigable waters in Canada.

In Quebec, these programs are administered from the Champlain Ocean Sciences Centre (COSC) in Quebec City. Research studies centre around the dynamics of coastal water masses, water pollution and the mechanisms which control biological production. Studies are carried out in the St. Lawrence River and Gulf, in the Saguenay fiord and in Northern Quebec.

The Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) at COSC is responsible for producing and updating approximately 75 maps of the St. Lawrence and Quebec's inland navigable waters. These maps are important, not only for the fishermen, but also for commercial and recreational navigation.

In addition, the CHS produces Sailing Directions, Tide and Current Tables, and other related publications essential for navigation in territorial waters.

C. Maurice Lamontagne Institute

In order to give a boost to research activities, the Government of Canada has, as part of

its Quebec marine fisheries revitalization program, provided funds for the construction of a research institute for ocean sciences on a par with others throughout the world. Known as the Maurice Lamontagne Institute, this research centre, to be built in the Mitis region, will be outfitted with the most modern laboratories and equipment. Its main function will be to carry out scientific studies in the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, as well as Northern Quebec's coastal waters; these are complete marine environments and fairly restricted ecosystems, subject to pollution from the most industrialized areas in all of North America.

The Maurice Lamontagne Institute represents a new departure for Canada in the area of fisheries research and the marine sciences since it will be an essentially francophone research centre. Research activities will be divided among the fishery and oceanographic and hydrographic studies.

The Maurice Lamontagne Institute, representing an investment of nearly \$40 million, will provide some 300 jobs and will offer excellent opportunities for scientists from the francophone universities. It will provide employment stimulation not only for the lower St. Lawrence region where it is to be built, but also for all Quebec's coastal regions.

7. CANADIAN SALTFISH CORPORATION

Because of the tensions existing in negotiations between fishermen and the various buyers, and because of financial uncertainty and the low income of fishermen in the saltfish industry, the Government of Canada created the Canadian Saltfish Corporation. This organization is the responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and is accountable to the Office of the Auditor General.

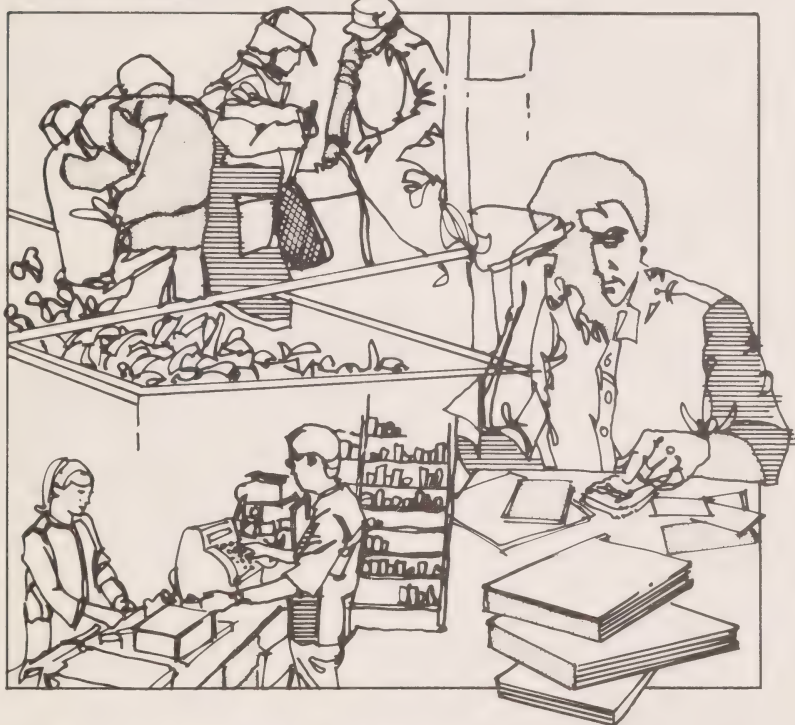


Its one and only objective is to raise the level of income of the primary producers of saltfish, namely, the fishermen. This will be done through modernizing the industry.

The Canadian Saltfish Corporation is an autonomous body in all areas of administrative, commercial and financial activities. It is a non-profit organization in that all its profits must be redistributed among the producers, most of whom are fishermen, or reinvested in other projects under its jurisdiction.

Its activities consist in improving the structure and control of all stages in the marketing of saltfish: harvesting, processing (salting, cutting, drying), classification by species and product quality, transportation, market research, packaging, sale and delivery. The Corporation also contributes in initiating policies concerning the adoption of new processing techniques by the various companies. It also encourages new investments as a follow-up to market trends.

8. FISHERIES PRICES SUPPORT BOARD



The primary objective of the Fisheries Prices Support Board is to protect fishermen against sudden drops in fish prices and the ensuing loss of income.

The Fisheries Prices Support Board has the authority to buy fish products for its own use and to offer financial compensation to producers, in the amount of the difference between the fixed price and the average sale price of these products. The Board, in establishing a selling price and in determining the amount of compensation, will attempt to strike a fair balance between the income earned from fishing and income from other occupations.

The Board also serves as a supplier of fish products for food aid and development programs of the Canadian International Development Agency. The offices of the Board are located within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

9. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE



The Unemployment Insurance Act contains some clauses particularly pertinent to fishermen. These clauses guarantee fishermen and other employees in the fishing industry, as they do all other workers, a reasonable income in the form of benefits during periods of unemployment.

Under the Act, a fisherman is any person actively participating in the fishery or in an auxiliary activity related to fishing proper or the handling of fish. A person is not deemed to be a fisherman under this Act if he fishes for his personal enjoyment or if he is under personal contract for his services.

A fisherman's job is insurable at all times unless

- a) the fisherman is 65 years of age or older
- b) the fisherman is employed by his spouse
- c) the fisherman is a dependent of his employer
- d) the fishing he does is by way of an exchange of work or services
- e) one week's wages equal less than 20 per cent of the maximum for weekly insurable earnings (not applicable in the case of a fisherman/boat owner)
- f) the fisherman receives any part of his earnings in goods.

Eligibility

i) Year-round fishermen

In order to be eligible for benefits, persons in this category must have accumulated 15 weeks of insurable employment during the previous 52 weeks. The amount of benefits is based on the 10 weeks during which insurable income was highest. This amount is 60 per cent of the average insurable earnings during the 10 best weeks up to a maximum of \$231.00.

ii) Seasonal fishermen

The reference period for seasonal fishermen is either between March 31 and November 1, or October 1 and May 1. Benefits for seasonal fishermen are available to any person who worked for 10 weeks or more during the reference period, at least six weeks of which must be related to the fishery for consideration of the claim, and subject to contributions having been paid for at least six weeks. The unemployment insurance claim will therefore be processed as coming from a fisherman, and benefits can be paid for either of the two periods mentioned above.

Therefore, when the claimant has less than 15 weeks of insurable income from the fishery, the benefits will be calculated as if he were any ordinary claimant, that is at 60 per cent of average weekly insurable earnings during the reference period up to a maximum of \$231.00.

10. INCOME TAX AND OTHER EXEMPTIONS



In order to try and offset the consequences of poor seasons and to minimize the high operating costs in the fishing industry, the Government of Canada has implemented a number of helpful measures as contained in the Income Tax Act and the Excise Tax Act.

A. Income tax exemptions

Special tax measures have been authorized for fishermen under the Income Tax Act. There are two items of particular importance. Firstly, all expenses mentioned below are exempt from taxation:

- salaries and food for crew members
- interest charges on loans throughout the year
- gasoline and oil used by the boat
- purchase of nets
- small tools (less than \$200)
- expenses for a car which is used for purposes related to the fishery
- boat repairs
- engine repairs
- repairs to electrical equipment.

Secondly, to guard against seasonal fluctuations, fishermen, like farmers, can spread their income over five years for tax purposes. This means that the fisherman can calculate income tax for the previous year based on an average income over a five-year period. In fact, an average period is made up of the year in which the average was calculated and the four previous years. None of the years included in the five-year period can be used in a subsequent calculation. Taxes for each year must be paid by the due date and cannot be deferred by using the argument that the tax will be less once the average is calculated.

B. Exemptions under the Excise Tax Act

The fishing industry benefits from a large number of exemptions in the sale or import of various merchandise. These exemptions fall into two categories, those which are claimed specifically by the fishermen and those available to the processing plants. These exemptions apply only to commercial fishing.

a) Tax exemptions for fishermen for the purchase of the following articles:

- 1) boats, and articles and material used exclusively for the construction, rigging or repair of these boats
- 2) caragheen or Irish moss
- 3) cloth and cotton twine
- 4) lobster traps, crab or shrimp traps, cod traps, eel traps, equipment to bind or wedge lobster claws, and material used solely in their fabrication
- 5) • fish nets and nets of all kinds
 - special needles used to repair fishing nets
 - metal pommels used to open nets
 - metal swivel hooks
 - fish hooks to fit size 3/0 and over, other than trip hooks size 2/0 and over, provided they are marketed and sold in bulk
 - lures, jiggers and artificial bait
 - lead weights and floaters, including small

- barrels with cork lines
 - nylon mending yarn in $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound rolls, of a thickness varying between $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 thousandths of an inch
 - marlines
 - devices to measure steel thickness
- 6) twine
- braided twine in 3 or 4-ply strands, used for attaching floaters or cork lines on the outer extreme of the gill or seine nets
 - mending twine: in one and two-pound rolls, used for salmon-seining and herring-seining nets
 - nylon seining twine: (tarred) used to mend seining nets, in rolls of two pounds or more
 - braiding twine: used to fasten smaller nets together so as to make a net of a required size
 - branch line twine: braided twine used for joining the mainline to the hooks
- 7) fishing lines
- single ply monofilament fishing lines, 35 to 2000 pound strength
 - all braided or twisted fishing lines
 - fishing lines for crabs: braided mainlines used for the crab fishing, generally measuring from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch in diameter
 - cork lines: braided 3-ply lines, used to connect

the floaters which are then attached to the nets

- lines for harvesting plants: braided lines, measuring from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch in diameter, used for harvesting marine plants and for attaching cork lines so as to avoid snagging debris
 - leadcore leadlines for gillnets: used for fixing nets in the water.
- 8) cords and ropes: used for braiding nets and for suspending cork lines and leaded lines; a braided, spun-nylon type, gauges 9 to 33, is used.
- b) Tax exemptions for processing plants:
- 1) machinery parts used exclusively by the manufacturer: only licensed manufacturers can buy these materials exempt from sales tax.
 - 2) pipes, coupling pipes and valves, wires, cables and electrical conduits: they are exempt from taxation only when their use is subject to exemption.
 - 3) production materials: a tax exemption applies only if the material is used directly in
 - i) the manufacture or production of goods
 - ii) improving the procedure for manufacture or production prior to

being used

iii) the improvement of goods prior to being manufactured or produced.

4) lifts:

it is possible to get a tax reimbursement if the lift is used directly in the manufacture or production of goods.

5) air conditioning and humidifying equipment for controlling temperature and percentage of humidity of materials being processed, or for controlling the temperature of production material: no exemption applies when the equipment is used to control the surrounding temperature.

6) handling equipment: (conveyors, trolleys, elevators and dolleys) used mainly for transporting articles and material:

i) directly to the place of manufacture or production

ii) directly, during every stage of manufacture or production

iii) directly from the place of manufacture or production.

No exemption applies when articles or materials are transported

i) to a depot for raw materials or stockpiling

ii) from one warehouse to another

iii) from a store or manu-

facturer's warehouse of finished products to a dispatcher's warehouse

iv) between different factories not in the same building.

7) annexed buildings or those giving access to production materials (buildings, steps, platforms, bought or imported passageways): an exemption applies if the above are bought or imported in order to give employees access to the merchandise being manufactured or produced.

No exemption applies if their use allows employees access to production materials in order to install, operate, maintain or repair the production materials.

8) basic support structures or foundations above ground level for buildings in the immediate vicinity, if it can be shown that they are part of production materials.

There is no exemption for basic supports or foundations for production materials.

9) pollution control devices: There is a tax exemption for materials used in the detection, measurement, treatment, reduction or elimination of pollutants caused by the production of the goods and the materials used in the

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| <p>transport of the waste products.</p> <p>10) health or safety materials such as first aid equipment and fire extinguishing equipment;</p> | <p>11) repair tools used exclusively for maintenance of the merchandise in question;</p> <p>12) parts for machinery and engines.</p> |
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11. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The offices of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, spread throughout the regions in Quebec where the marine fishery operates, serve as centres of information for fishermen and the public. In addition to information, the fisherman can at any time have access to fisheries specialists who are ready to help with problems and to offer every possible assistance or advice concerning resource and fishery management.

In Quebec, the offices of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are located at the following addresses:

Regional Office

Department of Fisheries and
Oceans
Quebec Region
Champlain Harbour Station
P.O. Box 15,500
901 Cap Diamant
Quebec, Quebec
G1K 7Y7

District Offices

Magdalen Islands

Department of Fisheries and
Oceans
P.O. Box 179
Cap-aux-Meules
Magdalen Islands, Quebec
G0B 1B0
Tel: (418) 986-2095

North Shore

Department of Fisheries and
Oceans
402 Brochu St.
2nd Floor
Sept-Îles, Quebec
G4R 2W8
Tel: (418) 962-6314

Gaspé

Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
P.O. Box 516
Rue de la Reine
Gaspé, Quebec
G0C 1R0
Tel: (418) 368-5559

Montreal

Department of Fisheries and
Oceans

1001 Pierre Dupuy

Longueuil, Quebec

J4K 1A1

Tel: (514) 283-4967

The Department of Fisheries
and Oceans also has district
offices in Grande-Rivière, Baie
Comeau, Rivière-au-Renard,
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts,
Bonaventure, Blanc-Sablon,
Grande Entrée and Quebec.



Fisheries
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